

ABSTRACT

A method of managing digital rights comprises the following steps. First, a physical electronic key containing a key code is provided to a requesting user. Second, locked digital content is provided to the requesting user. The digital content is marked with an unlock code associated with the key code. Third, the locked digital content is received in a playing device that reads the key code and determines whether the key code is associated with the unlock code. Fourth, the playing device is enabled to unlock and play the digital content if the key code is associated with the unlock code. A digital right management system for implementing the foregoing method is also disclosed.